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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

25 September 1950

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: The Korean Situation

I. Military SituationSummary

US Marines, heavily engaged in the northern outskirts of Seoul by a determined enemy resisting stubbornly from prepared positions, advanced only 750 yards during the past 24 hours. In the southern section of the city, a regiment of the US 7th Division has crossed the Han River and penetrated 2,000 yards. Other elements of the 7th Division patrolling south of Suwon are within 45 miles of a link-up with advanced patrols of the US 1st Cavalry Division which were last reported in the city of Chongju. The disintegration of the North Korean perimeter in the southeast was accelerated over the weekend with major UN advances on all fronts. While small isolated enemy pockets continued to resist in widely separated areas, air observation indicates increased enemy troop movement to the north and northwest from the southeastern battle zone.

Ground

Seoul Area. Four enemy regiments stiffened their resistance in the northern outskirts of Seoul and limited US Marine advances to 750 yards. The 32nd Regiment of the US 7th Division crossed the Han River from the south and advanced 2,000 yards into the city against moderate resistance. The Inchon beachhead was reinforced by the landing of elements of the 187th Regiment of the US 11th Airborne Division and the 17th Regiment of the ROK Capital Division. The 31st Regiment of the US 7th Division, patrolling south of Suwon, engaged small enemy concentrations.

Southeastern Area. The disintegration of the enemy's perimeter was hastened over the weekend by major UN advances on all fronts. The US 25th Division, encountering decreasing resistance along the south coast, was reported in the outskirts of Chinju. The 2nd Division advancing westward across the Nakdong encountered stiff enemy resistance in the area of Hyopchon, but continued forward to the north of that city. The US 24th Division also was heavily engaged by enemy rear guard action in the vicinity of Kumchon. The breakthrough of the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the US 1st Cavalry Division enabled a reinforced company to penetrate northward to the

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key city of Chongju, only 45 airline miles from the southernmost patrols from the Inchon beachhead. The capture of the North Korean supply center of Andong by a regiment of the ROK 8th Division, and the ROK 3rd Division's advance to the town of Yongdok on the east coast were symptomatic of the breakup of the North Korean effort in this area. Air observation confirms heavy enemy movement to the north and northwest from the southeastern battle zone.

Navy

UN carrier-based aircraft continued close support of UN ground forces in the Seoul area and interdiction of lines of communication in west central Korea. UN naval units fired close support missions for rapidly advancing ROK units along the east coast and supported ground efforts in the Seoul area.

Air

A new high in sorties was achieved by UN air forces with a total of 728 (432 combat). Effective close support was provided advancing ground units along the southeastern perimeter. Retreating North Korean columns were strafed. B-29's concentrated on interdiction of lines of communication and general military targets. Road and rail communications into Seoul were cut in 30 places by air action.

II. General Situation

No significant developments were reported during the past 48 hours.

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